



Faculty Excellence Committee

April 1st, 2026

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Room 264

MISSION STATEMENT

Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District empowers students and strengthens the diverse communities we serve. As a teaching-centered institution, we are committed to student success in the classroom and beyond. We strive to foster a sense of belonging and ensure that every student, regardless of background, has the resources they need to thrive. Through quality instruction and compassionate support, we offer career-oriented programs and transfer degrees to prepare students for meaningful professions and active engagement with our communities.

Committee Members Present					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Valerie Ambrose (co-chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will Breitbach (co-chair)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bex Davis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sonia Randhawa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ramón Tello	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer McCandless
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wade Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kele Fitzhugh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Megan Bonnin

1. Call to Order 2:03 PM

2. Approval of Minutes: 03/04/26. Ramón motioned to approve and Jennifer seconded with the following edit recommendation: Add the title "VPI" next to Mike Mari's name. Motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

3. Reports – None.
4. Informational Items – None.
5. Discussion/Action Items
 - A) Bylaw revisions –
 - a. Guiding Principles and related PD

- Will reported that minor changes were added regarding formatting. Guiding principles were also added pertaining to Professional Development (PD). The group agreed that the changes were good and recommended to move forward by accepting track changes.
- Valerie moves to approve and Ramón seconds, no abstentions.

B) Homework – Teaching Versatile Learners for a Fast-Changing World

- Ramón mentioned some interesting quotes from the chapter that he highlighted for the group previously at the top of the Chapter 3 word doc. There are some case studies within the chapter that influence what was included in the Strategic Educational Master Plan (SEMP) document. Terms like “Collaborative re-design” and “Cross-disciplinary...” give us reasons to take another look at our institutional goals. It was mentioned that teaching strategy Community of Practices (CoPs) touch on this since people from different disciplines as well as other staff have the opportunity to contribute to this conversation.
- The chapter sparked discussion regarding technology in the classroom. Ramón shared that in some elite universities there are classrooms are not allowing technology (cell phones, etc.). Discussion about phone usage in classrooms and students being distracted continued into how critical thinking and learning are not achieved to their fullest capacity with the distraction and reliance of phones.
- Undetectable AI is another software that double-checks AI usage in papers. Using AI is important but the way they are currently using it is not beneficial. Recommendations regarding new assignments or activities that help them make long-term connections regarding critical thinking were discussed. Contextualizing material for two-part courses may also help motivate students. Valerie mentioned Bunker-Hill, a school that has experience with contextualizing courses in this way. They have some models that might be useful to look at. It encourages little assignments where they are connecting assignments together vs completing individual assignments that may not connect overall. Teaching adaptability is the most important skill that students can learn and that faculty can teach. The group agreed that this chapter is a good start to begin these conversations.
- Will shared that the sections that discuss common practices encourage common learning activities and practices. Ramón suggested that hiring committees include people from other areas. This could be a good way to make sure different voices are present.

C) Welcome Back Day

a. Brainstorming AI related topics and presenters

- There group discussed the possibility of making AI a larger theme for WBD or reaching out to specific presenters to discuss AI. There was a recommendation to request for a session on equity focused AI teaching tools.
- Will shared that Senate is going to recommend some syllabus language that faculty can use and edit.
- Valerie asked the group to fill out the call to proposals. The successes and challenges of using AI could be a topic. Other topic ideas include studies on how young students aren't learning the skills they need due to AI, also how adult students who had skills are losing them due to AI. AI Ambassadors might present a session or two.

D) Flex Menu

- Minor changes were made to the original flex menu. There was one exact duplicate. The ACCJC training portion is now broader. It was mentioned that the program review, 12hrs, seems excessive for Silver and Green team, under one of the activities. Wade recommended changing the hours to 6 (#37). The group agrees to change it to "up to 6hrs". The other change on this menu was to move PT only and FT only at the bottom and then sort the shared activities (PT/FT) on top. Recommendation to add a heading above PT only and FT only. Question about #35 – should we remove "approved in advance". The group agreed to remove #35 and add notes for clarification. #36 includes elements from #35.

6. Other – None.

7. Opportunity for public comment- This portion of the meeting is reserved for people desiring to address the committee on any matter not on the agenda. No action will be taken under this agenda item. Speakers are limited to three minutes.

There were no public comments.

8. Next Meeting: May 6th, 2026

9. Adjourn: 3:12 PM